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Air Conditioning & REFRIGERATION



NEWS

BULLETIN
EDITION
Mar. 5, 1945

\$4 per Year; 2 Years for \$7
Single Copy, 20 Cents

Published Every Monday by Business News Pub. Co.
5229 Cass Ave., Detroit 2, Mich.

Vol. 44, No. 10, Serial No. 833
Member: A.B.P., Inc., A.B.C.

NEW SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS TIGHTEN DEFERMENT REQUIREMENTS OF MEN 30-33

New regulations just issued by the national Selective Service headquarters will add to the difficulties of firms in the field who attempt to obtain continued deferments for refrigeration repairmen and refrigeration engineers.

By terms of a new regulation issued Feb. 24, men up to the age of 34 will have to meet more rigid requirements to be eligible for occupational deferments. A memorandum from national headquarters asks local boards to "dig deeper" into the age brackets 30-33.

It declared that registrants of such age to be eligible for deferment must be "necessary to and regularly engaged in" an activity in war production or in support of the national health, safety, or interest.

Before, the only requirement was that registrants in this age group, to be eligible for deferment, must be "regularly engaged in" an activity in support of the national health, safety, and interest or in an activity in war production.

(What this means, practically, is that when employers file for a continuance of an individual employe's deferment, they will have to make a strong case to show that the employe is "necessary to" an activity which is in support of the national health, safety, or interest.)

The memorandum to local boards also said that "if all other factors are equal, a father should be given greater consideration for occupational deferment than a non-father in this age group."

With reference to registrants age 34 through 37, the memorandum says that "merely the determination is required that the registrant is 'regularly engaged in' an activity in war production or in support of the national health, safety, or public interest."

At the same time, announcement was made of the details of the plan approved by the Office of War Mobilization covering the procedure for deferment of a limited number of men under 30 years of age. It is understood that for the time being at least, this will constitute the principal means of obtaining deferments for all men under 30.

According to the memorandum to local boards, "the prospect for registrants 18 through 29 is that they will be inducted unless the information submitted to local boards by employers indicates that they are necessary to and regularly engaged in, and that they are indispensable and irreplaceable in an activity in war production or in support of the national health, safety, and interest."

Employers will file a new form 42-A Special Revised (replacing the former 42-A Special) to the appropriate agency of the Federal Government for certification or denial of certification.

The agency which would handle the certifications for "refrigeration repairmen and engineers," according to information presently available, is the Office of Civilian Requirements of the War Production Board.

To each of the 15 Federal agencies is allowed certification of a flat 30% in their respective spheres of activity. In most cases, one 15% is being delegated to the field offices of the agency, and the other 15% is being retained in Washington.

Officials at Selective Service headquarters pointed out that employers seeking deferment of key men

under the age of 30 might file the new form with the local board even though certification has been denied by the Federal agency having jurisdiction.

Local boards have the power to grant or deny the deferment request on their own judgment of the facts, but boards have been instructed to give certified requests "the most serious consideration."

NATIONAL SERVICE COUNCIL GIVES ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS ON DEFERMENT PROCEDURE

In connection with the new procedure on deferments, W. Ray Kromer, chairman, National Refrigeration Service Council, has advised Local Councils to have individual contractors list all men under 30 with the nearest regional or local WPB office, so that they can get into the quota to be certified. The sooner this is done, the better the chances will be of getting such men deferred, he advises.

He also recommends that employers appeal all cases of reclassification of experienced repairmen over 30 years of age as follows:

(1) To the Local Board.

(2) To the State Director of Selective Service if the Local Board is unfavorable.

(3) If these moves fail, give the information to National Council Selective Service Representative Jack Bartlett, Electric Institute of Washington, Pepco Building, 10th and E Sts., Washington, D. C., giving all information regarding age, length and type of employment, draft order number, and experience on appeals.

NEW REGULATION RUMORED TO COVER PRICING BY JOBBERS

The OPA, according to rumors circulating in some business centers, may soon issue a new regulation to cover pricing by jobbers of some types of durable goods.

This regulation, according to predictions, would give each jobber a license number which would have to appear on every invoice sent out. To get a license number, the jobber would have to submit to the OPA a base period record of March, 1942, of the items which he handles and the price verification for them. For items which he did not carry in the base period, he would have to apply for a mark-up. This mark-up would then apply to all goods in the same category.

It was not indicated to what lines the regulation, if issued, would apply.

STEEL SHORTAGE MAY SLOW PRODUCTION OF ICE BOXES, INDUSTRY TELLS WPB

Shortages of steel may prevent manufacturers of domestic ice boxes from producing all the 75,000 units permitted quarterly during the first and second quarters of this year, and some firms may turn to hardboard to meet their quotas, it was indicated at a recent meeting in Washington, D. C., of Domestic Ice Refrigerator Industry Advisory Committee.

A cut of 26% in the amount of carbon steel available for ice box production in the second quarter as compared with the first quarter was necessitated by the current crisis in steel supply, the committee was informed.

During the fourth quarter of 1944 the industry produced 24,160 units.

Besides steel, the committee told WPB that it was having difficulty in obtaining insulation, hardware, and finishing materials.

PLESSKOTT RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF R.S.E.S.

Ernest A. Plesskott of St. Louis, president of the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society since 1941, has retired because of pressing personal business, the international headquarters of the association has reported.

Pending the formal election of a new president, First Vice President Clarence Buschkopf of Beaver Dam, Wis., is serving as acting president.

**SERVICE MANAGERS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATOR REPAIRS; WPB
SAYS IT WILL TRY TO SUPPLY PARTS**

Concern over the difficulty of keeping mechanical refrigerator repair shops in the field adequately staffed with trained personnel was expressed by manufacturers' service managers at the recent meeting of the Domestic Mechanical Refrigerator Industry Advisory Committee, the War Production Board reports.

Trained field service men, who are being drafted for military service in increasing numbers, are extremely difficult to replace, committee members reported. They pointed out that replacement personnel, if obtained, cannot be given sufficient training before summer, when service demands are expected to reach an all-time peak because many refrigerators have passed their normal life expectancy but cannot be replaced and therefore must be kept in operation.

Though refrigerator repair and maintenance has been included in the list of "essential" activities compiled by the War Manpower Commission for the guidance of the Selective Service System, committee members said, no attempt has been made to establish "the relative essentiality of refrigerator repair and maintenance" as compared with other activities on the list. The committee urged that special recognition be given to the importance of keeping existing refrigerators in operation, to safeguard health, and to maintain suitable refrigeration facilities for war workers.

Demand for repair and replacement parts in 1945 is expected by committee members to average 35% higher than in 1944, when demand was about 25% higher than in 1943.

WPB officials assured the committee that WPB would make every effort to provide sufficient materials to meet the increased demand. Despite current difficulties, production is expected by committee members to reach the needed height if materials are available, said the WPB men.

Hermetically sealed units sent to factories for reprocessing usually cannot be returned to customers in less than 80 or 90 days, committee members said. About 75% of the delay is caused by transportation difficulties, they explained. Time consumed in fitting the work into the factory schedule and in reoperating an individual unit varies from 48 hours to 15 days, committee members said.

Reprocessing of open units frequently is delayed because such items as castings, valves, and evaporators are difficult to obtain, the committee reported. Inventories of these and other parts are being depleted, committee members said, because units are becoming more worn and more parts require replacement.

Service managers reported that the industry's voluntary program for the return of inoperative functional parts in exchange for new ones is being continued. Reconditioning by manufacturers of the parts turned in is an increasingly important factor in meeting service requirements, it was pointed out.

Production of alternating current fractional horsepower motors, stepped up progressively during 1944, averaged more than 450,000 units per month in the fourth quarter as compared with average monthly production of 250,000 units in 1943, WPB officials said. They added that production is expected to be maintained at about the fourth-quarter level during 1945. They pointed out, however, that increased military requirements for motors for heavy artillery, rockets, and planes necessitate frequent diversion of facilities in motor plants, with the result that production of motors for refrigerators may fluctuate for several months, until the current military programs have been met.

Continuing tightness of the supply of sheet and stainless steel; aluminum sheets, extrusions, rods and bars; copper and zinc, principally as the result of increased military requirements and the shortage of manpower for increasing production, was reported by WPB officials. Production of "Freon" has been increased, and the supply is expected by WPB to be sufficient to meet the most essential needs.

Military demands for valves, electric controls, and bellows have been stepped up, and the supply is critical. WPB officials advised industry members to schedule production and place orders for materials and components as far in advance as possible.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., JOBBER NOW UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

W. C. Miessemmer, an active stockholder for the past four years in the J. Carl White Co., refrigeration jobber at 231 S. Central Ave. in Phoenix, Ariz., has purchased the entire interests of the firm and will operate it as Arizona Refrigeration Supplies, Inc.

NEW APPLIANCE CHAIN LEASES NINE OUTLETS IN KANSAS AND MISSOURI FOR POSTWAR

Starting with nine outlets in Kansas and Missouri, a new chain of exclusive appliance and radio stores has been established by the Wright Appliance Stores with headquarters and warehouse space in Kansas City, Mo., announces Gary Wright, president.

Stores were leased and remodeled last fall, but until appliances become available, the space has been donated to local church organizations and Red Cross chapters. Present setup includes branches in six Kansas communities: Atchison, Junction City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, and Ottawa; and three Missouri localities: Boonville, Brookfield, and Marshall. Although no retail outlet is planned for Kansas City, Mo., a temporary general buying office has been established at 1625 Grand Ave. there.

As soon as desirable leases can be obtained additional stores will be added in other towns. According to Paul J. Cook, general manager, the chain will itself finance time payment plans.

LOCKER PLANTS INCREASE 85% IN NUMBER IN GEORGIA IN PAST YEAR

Some sections of the country reveal a startling growth in the number of refrigerated locker storage plants in operation, despite restrictions placed on their construction.

Figures compiled by the Georgia Power Co. showed 48 locker plants in Georgia on Feb. 1, 1945, as compared with 26 plants in operation on Feb. 1, 1944, an increase of 85%.

NO 'BARGAIN PACKAGE' SALES OF APPLIANCES AFTER WAR

No "Bargain Package" electrical appliance sales campaigns will be necessary in New York City for some time—at least two years—after the war's end, it was predicted by L. A. Schofield, general sales manager of Consolidated Edison Co. of New York at a recent meeting.

"Our judgment indicates that for at least two years after the war's end the problem will be to see that the New York market gets its proper share of the nation's production of electric and gas devices," Mr. Schofield declares.

"In view of that situation, there appears no need on the part of the utility company during this period to campaign so-called commodity items.

"We believe that manufacturers and distributors should give prime consideration in selecting dealer outlets to the dealer's ability to render prompt and efficient neighborhood service of the equipment he sells."

"Bargain Package" merchandising was an idea put into effect by Consolidated Edison Co. some years ago, wherein "approved dealers" in the territory were given the opportunity of selling household appliances, mostly of the table variety, in combinations at less than regularly established retail prices and profit margins.

HERMAN HAYS TO ADVISE OPA ON REPAIR PRICING

Herman S. Hays, manager of field service engineering, Philco Corp., Philadelphia, has been appointed a consultant to the Service Trades Price Branch, the Office of Price Administration announced Feb. 26.

Mr. Hays, who will serve on a part time basis, will advise OPA's national office chiefly on matters relating to radio and household appliance repairs.

JOHNSON APPOINTED NORGE NATIONAL SERVICE MANAGER

Thurlo F. Johnson, who has been with the Norge division of Borg-Warner Corp. since 1933, has been named national service manager. He succeeds J. R. Cameron, who has resigned.

Johnson entered the company's employ in the manufacturing division, later transferring to inspection. He joined the service department in 1935 as a national field service representative covering all Norge household appliances as well as heating and commercial products. In 1939, he was appointed factory service superintendent in which position he remained until the start of the war, at which time he was assigned to special war production duties.

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